

REMARKS

Amendments

Claims 1-53 are pending. The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-15, 40-45 and 48-53 are withdrawn from consideration; and that claims 38-39 and 46-47 are allowed. Claim 16 has been amended without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter, to promote prosecution.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned, "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2 as being indefinite in not using the conventional language, "selected from the group consisting of." Claim 16 has been amended as requested by the Examiner. The amendment obviates this rejection, and reconsideration of claims 16-37 is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments herein, reconsideration and allowance of claims 16-39, and 44-47 are respectfully requested. Applicant requests rejoinder and allowance of claims 44-45 upon allowance of the claims from which they depend, claims 16 and 36, respectively, because claims 44-45 are conjugate species of these claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has stricken some of the references in the previously submitted Information Disclosure Statements for non-receipt thereof. It is believed that these references were submitted, and were indicated as received by postcards stamped received by the U.S. Patent Office. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being forwarded to the Examiner shortly with copies of the stricken references, to promote prosecution. In the Supplemental IDS,

the citation of the "Efimov" reference also is corrected, in accordance with the Examiner's request.

CONCLUSION

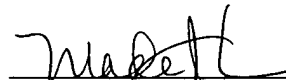
In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952, referencing Docket No. 252312007300.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 17, 2002

By:



Madeline I. Johnston
Registration No. 36,174

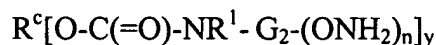
Morrison & Foerster LLP
755 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, California 94304-1018
Telephone: (650) 813-5840
Facsimile: (650) 494-0792

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

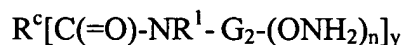
In the claims:

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

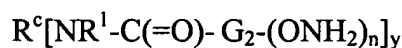
16. A valency platform molecule having a formula selected from the group consisting of:



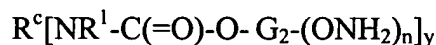
Formula 3;



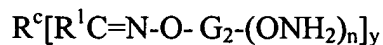
Formula 4;



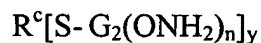
Formula 5;



Formula 6;



Formula 7; and



Formula 8;

wherein:

y is 1 to 16;

n is 1 to 32;

y * n is at least 3;

R¹ is H, alkyl, heteroalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or G₂-(ONH₂)_n; and

R^c and each G₂ are independently organic moieties comprising atoms selected from the group consisting of H, C, N, O, P, Si and S atoms.